THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

BENGALURU • SATURDAY • FEBRUARY 20, 2021 • ₹7.00 • PAGES 22 • LATE CITY EDITION

READ SHARE FOLLOW

newindianexpress.com

facebook.com/thenewindianexpress twitter.com/newindianexpress

instagram.com/newindianexpress

PHASE-1 OF DISENGAGEMENT AT PANGONG LAKE COMPLETE

Senior military commanders will meet on the Chinese side of Chushul-Moldo Border for the 10th round of talks on Saturday

OTHER FRICTION POINTS TO BE DISCUSSED

Both sides pulled back troops from the north and south banks of the lake in a four-step plan that comprised withdrawing armour, artillery and other heavy equipment, followed by infantry. During the Saturday's meeting, other friction points, including Depsang, Hot Springs and Gogra, will be taken up. The process disengagement began on February 10 | P9

CHINA FINALLY ADMITS GALWAN CASUALTY

- Admitting for the first time that it, too, had suffered casualties in last June's conflict at Galwan, the China's Central Military Commission honoured five soldiers, including four posthumously
- China's figure is conservative. Russia recently put it at 45. India had lost 20 soldiers in the hand-to-hand fight at Galwan in 2020

48-hour

DEADLINE SET TO CONVENE THE 10th ROUND AFTER DISENGAGEMENT

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • WARANGAL • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

FRIDAY FREEZE

No, this is not Chicago or Texas in the US, or even Europe. Shanivarsanthe in Somwarpet taluk of Kodagu district experienced a sudden hailstorm on Friday, covering the town and many villages in a blanket of white | EXPRESS | REPORT: P7

DELHI HIGH COURT RAPS MEDIA SENSATIONALISM

Says cover toolkit case based on verified sources; Disha custody extended

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ New Delhi

ON a day a local court placed activist Disha Ravi in three-day judicial custody in connection with the toolkit case, the Delhi High Court on Friday underlined her right to privacy and told media houses not to sensationalise the coverage of the probe. The high court passed the directions on a plea filed by Disha regarding leak of probe details, and sensational coverage by media houses.

Disha Ravi

Earlier, seeking more time to interrogate Disha, the Delhi Police told a court: "We have issued notices to several others to join the probe. We want to confront Disha and Shantanu. During the course of interrogation, Disha shifted the blame onto Nikita and Shantanu."

In the high court, Additional Solicitor General Suryaprakash V Raju strongly opposed Disha's petition, saying the activist was defaming and vilifying the police. He claimed that the petition was a systematic attempt to blame the police and derail the investigation.

However, the h igh court stated: "Right to privacy, the sovereignty and integrity of the country and the freedom of speech need to be balanced. The recent coverage definitely shows there is sensationalised reporting by the media. While press briefings are held generally, media cannot disseminate the information in such a sensationalised manner."

Upholding the journalistic ethics of not disclosing the source, the court, however, directed media houses to base their coverage on verified and authentic sources.

Disha had moved the high court seeking to restrain the police from leaking to the media any probe material in relation to the FIR lodged against her. The petition had also sought to restrain the media from publishing the content of her private chats.

Disha's parents are distraught, says advocate

BALA CHAUHAN @ Bengaluru

CLIMATE activist Disha Ravi's parents were "extremely emotionally distraught" after a Delhi court remanded her to judicial custody for three days on Friday. "Her parents thought that on the completion of Disha's five days in police custody, she would be released and she could return home. They are laypersons and don't understand the difference between police and judicial custody. Their anxiety has only heightened after she was remanded to judicial custody," said Disha's family friend and advocate R Prasanna.

Her arrest in the farmers' protest toolkit case has sent shock waves and led to angry reactions from activists, students, human rights organisations among others. Prasanna said that he was expecting that the court would send Disha to judicial custody, given the "nature of the offence she has been charged with, the gravity of the situation and the hype that has been created around it". P7

daCunha/ABI/727

K'taka aims to have Jan Aushadi centres in all govt hospitals

ASHWINI M SRIPAD @ Bengaluru

KARNATAKA may well become the first state in the country to have Jan Aushadi centres in all government hospitals. With the Union Government planning to start such centres in all government hospitals across the country, Karnataka is likely to take the lead in taking up the initiative to make medicines available at affordable prices to more people.

Currently, under the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP), there are nearly 7,500 Jan Aushadi Kendras in the country, of which 850, accounting for over 10 per cent, are in Karnataka. The State Government is targeting to have 1,000 centres by end of this year. On an average, 20 new Kendras are being opened in Karnataka every month.

Bengaluru Urban district alone has 211 centres, followed by Dakshina Kannada with 76 centres. As on date, the state has recorded Rs 118 crore business from these centres for the year 2020-21. The government is hoping to touch Rs 125-130 crore turnover by the end of March 2021. The state will have main distribution centres at Bengaluru, Hubballi, one in Coastal Karnataka and also in Kalyana Karnataka. "Distribution of medicines to centres will be done from here," said the sources. P7

EXPRESS READ

Man dies 10 days after vaccine dose

Bengaluru: A valveman of the waterworks department from Chikkaballapur died on Friday, a day after he was discharged from Jayadeva Hospital where he was treated for chest pain he had developed after receiving a vaccine shot on February 10. He was discharged on February 18, but died while being shifted again to the hospital, health officials said. P3

Terrorists gun down two cops in Valley

Srinagar: A day after visiting foreign diplomats departed, terrorists gunned down two policemen in the city on Friday. Their firing at two unarmed policemen was caught on camera near Baghat Chowk. Both of them later died at the police hospital. Inspector General of Police blamed the Lashkar for the attack. Meanwhile, three militants were shot dead while a policeman died in an encounter at Badigam in south Kashmir's Shopian district on Thursday. P10

FACEBOOK BATS FOR GLOBAL POLICY FRAMEWORK

Facebook India MD Ajit Mohan said it will be helpful if India takes the leadership role in formulating standard regulations that tackle data privacy issues and other challenges | P13

Landmark UK verdict on Uber drivers as staff sparks hope

A landmark verdict of the UK Supreme Court on Friday classifying ride-hailing app Uber's drivers as its employees and not self-employed, was widely welcomed by drivers' unions in India, hoping it would help build their case for changing the oppressive work conditions back home.

It ruled that the driver would have full protection as an employee from the moment the app is switched on and not from when the ride commences.

A similar demand for the regularisation of Uber and Ola drivers is pending before the Industrial Tribunal in Kerala's Thrissur. T R S Kumar, president of the All Kerala Online Taxi Driver Union, said online taxi drivers are upbeat about the UK verdict. "We were first in India to file a similar case. We hope the UK Supreme Court verdict would be helpful in our case as well. It will surely be a lesson to employers to treat online taxi drivers as regular employees with pension and other welfare schemes," he said.

However, Tanveer Pasha, president of the Ola-Uber Drivers Association in Bengaluru, was not as upbeat. He said six months back a similar order was passed by California courts and the parliament there.

CONTINUED ON: P7, SEE ALSO: P12

(Inputs from Bosky Khanna @ Bengaluru; Toby Antony @ Kochi; B Anbuselvan @ Chennai; Sudarsan Moharana @ Bhubaneswar)